Croatia where the Serbian population constitutes a pre-war majority, but this process can start only after successful implementation of the existing Security Council resolutions, in particular resolution 871 (1993) of 4 October 1993. The President of the Republic of Croatia, Franjo Tudjman, proposed in his Peace Initiative (S/26681, annex) the scheduling of local elections in UNPAs as the final stage in the peaceful reintegration of those areas into the Republic of Croatia, on the basis of full local autonomy in the districts of Knin and Glina, within the framework of the Constitutional Law on Human Rights and Freedoms and the Rights of National and Ethnic Communities of Minorities of the Republic of Croatia.

The European Union Action Plan underlines the importance of the Carrington plan and the fact that the level of autonomy of the areas currently under the UNPROFOR mandate must be decided on the basis of the pre-war census. The return of refugees is an indispensable prerequisite for any action and only thereafter one can envisage, as the second stage of the peace process, local elections in the areas where Serbian population is in the majority.

The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe emphasized in the official documents of its Rome Council meeting, from 30 November to 1 December 1993, that "the current situation in UNPA zones jeopardizes the territorial integrity of Croatia", and that "these territories should be peacefully reintegrated into the political and legal system of Croatia". Scheduled "elections" by the Serbian insurgent authorities certainly are not a step in that direction.

On behalf of my Government, I respectfully request that the Security Council takes all necessary steps to prevent further aggravations of the situation in the region in this regard.

I would ask for your kind assistance in distributing this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mario NOBILO
Permanent Representative